



## CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATES

By Scott Herring  
Construction & Maintenance Director



Columbia County has two funding sources for large capital projects – Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) and General Obligation (GO) bonds which were sold earlier this year. Our current 2006 – 2010 SPLOST (or 1¢ sales tax) was renewed by the voters in 2004 and has transportation, facilities, public safety, recreation, and intergovernmental projects. Last November, voters approved the GO bond referendum for additional water, transportation, recreation, and public safety projects. As you can see from the project lists below, the County has been working very hard to get these promised projects completed and usable by the citizens of the County. Please contact me at [sherring@columbiacountyga.gov](mailto:sherring@columbiacountyga.gov) if you have any questions or concerns about these projects.

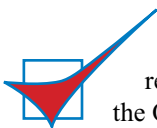
### NOVEMBER 2006 GO BOND PROJECT SCHEDULE (Funds to repay bonds come from property taxes)

### 2006 – 2010 SPLOST PROJECT SCHEDULE (SPLOST = Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax or the 1¢ sales tax)

Projects under construction in 2007	Current Update
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SWU master plan to identify needed improvements</li> <li>SW maintenance facility on Chamblin Road</li> <li>Halifax Subdivision – streambank reinforcement</li> <li>La Vista Drive – install drainage pipe</li> <li>William Few Parkway drainage improvements</li> <li>Mullins Pond dredging, rebuilding for flood control</li> <li>Bowen's Pond – remove sedimentation</li> <li>Dozier Road – install 37,5000 feet of water main</li> <li>GR Tucker water line construction</li> <li>Old Louisville water line construction</li> <li>Water storage tank to serve Cities and County</li> <li>Sanitary sewer line installation</li> <li>Water line and booster pump station acquisition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under contract and in process</li> <li>Engineering proposal approved, design underway</li> <li>Environmental permitting phase</li> <li>Engineering complete, environmental permitting phase</li> <li>Will meet with citizens this summer</li> <li>Project to bid April 19, 2007</li> <li>Under engineering review</li> <li>Engineering approved and construction begins August</li> <li>Construction to begin in June</li> <li>Engineering proposal approval June 07</li> <li>Engineering proposal approval June 07</li> <li>Engineering completed, easement acquisition phase</li> <li>Meeting with City of Harlem</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Industrial Park Drive widening to 5 lanes at Lowe's</li> <li>School sidewalk – Evans High School</li> <li>Blanchard Woods Park land acquisition</li> <li>Evans Town Center Park land and utilities</li> <li>Blackstone Camp Road land acquisition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final plans received/ROW acquisition beginning</li> <li>In design</li> <li>Land negotiations by consultant</li> <li>Land repaid and citizen committee organized</li> <li>Land negotiations by consultant</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appling master plan for all County facilities</li> <li>Fire Dept training facility land &amp; construction</li> <li>Leah fire station land and construction</li> <li>HazMat items to establish 24/7 response team</li> <li>Ladder truck to be housed at Sugar Creek Dr.</li> <li>Battalion chief vehicle house at Ray Owens</li> <li>4 Class A fire engines - stations 10, 13, 14 &amp; 16</li> <li>Sheriff's weapons training facility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phase I completed and Phase II being initiated</li> <li>Site selected – to be built in phases</li> <li>Land to be purchased</li> <li>Items ordered</li> <li>Truck ordered</li> <li>Truck ordered</li> <li>3 fire engines on order – 1 delivered</li> <li>In design</li> </ul>
Projects under construction in 2008	Projects under construction in 2009
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Petersburg Station streambank reinforcement</li> <li>Wynngate streambank reinforcement</li> <li>Ridge Crossing drainage improvements</li> <li>Euclhee Creek drainage basin sewer lines</li> <li>Martinez area redevelopment</li> <li>School sidewalk – Evans Elementary School</li> <li>Creek crossing on Reynolds Farm Road</li> <li>Crawford Place Road paving</li> <li>Hinton Wilson Road paving</li> <li>Wildwood Park road construction</li> <li>Court software, data conversion &amp; training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Betty's Branch streambank reinforcement</li> <li>William Few Ext. acquire ROW &amp; move utilities</li> <li>School transportation construction per BOE</li> <li>Owens, Cox &amp; Gibbs widen loop with DOT help</li> <li>Hereford Farm Road widening with DOT help</li> </ul>

Water Projects
  Transportation Projects
  Recreation Projects
  Public Safety Projects

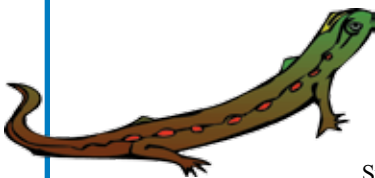
Projects	Current Update
<b>Transportation :</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Georgia DOT projects</li> <li>County projects</li> <li>Resurfacing</li> <li>Dirt road paving</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan preparation and Right of Way (ROW) acquisition ongoing</li> <li>Plan preparation and ROW acquisition ongoing</li> <li>Ongoing</li> <li>Plan preparation and ROW acquisition ongoing</li> </ul>
<b>County Facilities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Building A – renovate or replace</li> <li>Savannah Rapids Pavilion</li> <li>Evans Gov't Center parking</li> <li>Animal Shelter improvements</li> <li>Other facility renovations</li> <li>Building acquisitions/expansions</li> <li>Central Shop addition</li> <li>Appling Courthouse renovations</li> <li>Evans Gov't Center master plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On hold</li> <li>New roof installed/interior renovations scheduled for fall</li> <li>Contract awarded - work to begin in May</li> <li>On hold for master plan/sewer issues</li> <li>Ongoing</li> <li>Ongoing</li> <li>Phase I is complete; Phase II is ongoing</li> <li>Completed renovations</li> <li>Work has started</li> </ul>
<b>Public Safety:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emergency Operations Center</li> <li>Fire stations &amp; renovations</li> <li>Land for new fire stations</li> <li>Fire apparatus replacement</li> <li>Computer hardware/software</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed – facility dedicated in August 2006</li> <li>Completed – currently have 13 staffed stations and 3 un-staffed stations</li> <li>Completed – all land purchased for fire stations</li> <li>Completed – all apparatus under SPLOST replaced</li> <li>Ongoing multi-faceted project - to be finished in 2008</li> </ul>
<b>Recreation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blanchard Woods Park</li> <li>Canal Headgates</li> <li>Reed Creek Park wetland center</li> <li>Reed Creek Park boardwalk add.</li> <li>Wildwood Park improvements</li> <li>Disc Golf Club House</li> <li>New park land acquisition</li> <li>Upgrade existing parks</li> <li>Greenspace acquisition</li> <li>New park improvements</li> <li>Performing Arts Center upgrade</li> <li>Baker Place recreation</li> <li>Blackstone Camp improvements</li> <li>Other projects</li> <li>Eubanks Blanchard pavilion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opening this fall</li> <li>Work ongoing</li> <li>Opened in March</li> <li>Design to begin January 2008</li> <li>Ongoing</li> <li>Opened in April at Wildwood Park</li> <li>Ongoing</li> <li>Ongoing</li> <li>Ongoing/master plan underway</li> <li>Ongoing</li> <li>Completed in January 2006</li> <li>On hold</li> <li>On hold pending land acquisition</li> <li>Ongoing</li> <li>Design underway - construction complete by fall 2007</li> </ul>
<b>Intergovernmental :</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water &amp; sewer</li> <li>Municipalities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water lines on Wrightsboro and Eubanks Drive completed</li> <li>Appling sewer line under construction</li> <li>Ridge Road Water line to bid April 19, 2007</li> <li>Ongoing</li> </ul>



The State Legislature has passed and Governor Perdue has signed a bill authorizing the County to have a referendum for redevelopment using tax allocation districts and other powers under Chapter 22 of Title 36 of the O.C.G.A., the "Redevelopment Powers Law" as amended. This referendum will be on the June 19, 2007 ballot.

## “Wetlands are Wonderful” Scavenger Hunts

The Reed Creek Park and Wetlands Interpretative Center is hosting “Wetlands are Wonderful” scavenger hunts. Come and explore your neighborhood wetlands and learn about the plants and creatures that live here. The scavenger hunts are tailored for school aged children who need to be accompanied by an adult.



**May 12th 2 PM – 4 PM**  
**May 19th 10 AM to noon**

For more information, please contact  
Susan Dyer, Educational Coordinator,

Reed Creek Wetlands Interpretative Center at [sdyer@columbiacountyga.gov](mailto:sdyer@columbiacountyga.gov) or by calling 706-210-4027.

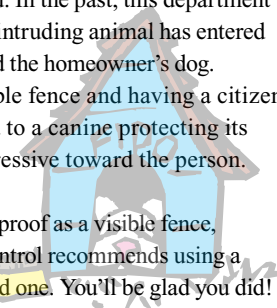
The Interpretative Center is currently open for educational outreach programs and tours on Tuesdays and Fridays as well as some Saturdays each month for scheduled visits or special events.

## Invisible vs. Visible Fences

In 2006, Columbia County Animal Care and Control responded to over 3000 complaints from citizens concerned about stray animals in roadways and yards including situations where animals thought to be in an invisible fence were running at large. Invisible fencing has three main deficiencies:

- Failure due to collar batteries not being charged or the power to the home had failed, rendering the invisible fence ineffective.
- Failure to keep animals out of the yard. In the past, this department has responded to situations where an intruding animal has entered an invisible fence system and attacked the homeowner's dog.
- Failure to post signs about an invisible fence and having a citizen unknowingly enter a yard which led to a canine protecting its territory by attacking or acting aggressive toward the person.

Because invisible fences are not as fail-proof as a visible fence, Columbia County Animal Care and Control recommends using a conventional fence to contain your loved one. You'll be glad you did!



## From the storm sewer wise guy....

I really like this warm weather! I'd like to take a minute to remind you not blow or dump your grass clippings into the storm sewer system. You may not realize it, but that yard waste can clog storm sewers and cause flooding. Now, I like water a lot, but I've heard you humans aren't too happy when it gets into your houses! Also, once yard waste washes into my creek, it releases dangerous amounts of nitrogen AND begins to use up the



oxygen that my fellow aquatic critters and I need. If you see your neighbors dumping yard waste in a storm drain, please let them know that waste can clog storm sewers and harm the creeks. You could also call 706-855-7246 and let my friends at the Stormwater Utility send a friendly reminder about not dumping yard waste into the storm drain. So remember... NO yard waste in the storm sewers or the creeks!

## Open Burning Ban Starts May 1

A State-mandated ban on open burning is in effect annually from May 1st through September 30th. No residential burning is allowed in Columbia County during this time. If you need to make a complaint, call the fire department.

## May Community Calendar

### Community Events

Unless otherwise noted, please call 706-312-7191 or e-mail [sadkins@columbiacountyga.gov](mailto:sadkins@columbiacountyga.gov) for more information on these events.

- 4 Art in the Park artists' reception at PAC.
- 5 Art in Park at the Amphitheater will feature artwork available for sale and hands-on art projects for children from 10 AM – 5 PM.
- 5 2nd Annual Grapes and Cheese from 1 – 4 PM at the Evans Town Center Park (located behind Kroger). Tickets are \$25 and are available at [www.csrwinefest.com](http://www.csrwinefest.com).
- 5 The Augusta Symphony presents *POPS! Under the Stars* at the University Hospital Evans Campus (447 Belair Road). Pre-concert entertainment begins at 6:30 PM with the Augusta Symphony at 7:30 PM.
- 12 Great American Clean-up – Volunteers are asked to meet at the Evans Government Center at 8 AM.
- 12 Farmers Market and More at the Evans Town Center Park from 8 AM – noon.
- 26 Red, White, and Blue Celebration – 6:30 PM – 9 PM at Norwood Freedom Plaza in front of Justice Center to include patriotic music, guest speakers, and a fireworks show at dark.

### Library Events

Pre-registration required by calling 706-863-1946 unless noted.

- 5 Red Cross Baby Sitting Course – ages 12-18 from 10 AM – 4 PM. Call Red Cross at 706-724-8481 to register.
- 9 Beginners Excel class – 10 AM – noon.
- 10 Basic Computer – 6:30 – 8:00 PM.
- 16 Basic Computer – 10 AM – noon.
- 17 Author visit by southern mystery writer, Patricia Sprinkle.
- 19 Women's Infertility Topics by MCG – 10 AM – noon.
- 19 Resume writing and job interview skills by Brenau University – 2 – 4 PM.
- 20 Sunday Scrabble Club – ages 12 and up – 2 – 5 PM.
- 21 Book Discussion (The Thirteenth Tale by Diane Setterfield) – 6-7 PM.
- 21 Columbia Marionette Theater performance – 3 PM.
- 21 Open Mic Night – ages 12-18 from 6 – 7:30 PM.
- 23 E-mail for Beginners – 10 AM – noon.
- 24 Internet I – 6:30 – 8:00 PM.
- 30 Children's Musical Theater Ensemble – 2 PM.
- 31 Internet II – 6:30 – 8:00 PM.